

# The Sun

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out. They spoke as if in a sinking boat with no rescuing sail in sight. But we see a hint that vineyardists in at least one part of the State have been wisely forewarned. In the glowing San Joaquin Valley, where sherry and port types of wine are made, where rivers of sweet, heavy juice flow from the presses crushing the flaming toky grape; where, too, in lighter soil, on higher ground, Bordeaux types, burgundies, white and red, are grown, pressed, aged and bottled, cotton fields have come into bearing. We read with satisfaction that this year \$15,000,000 worth of cotton has been picked in the San Joaquin and Imperial valleys.

The wise, foreboding vineyardists: Happy, they, in good words and profitable. No longer makers of insubstantial port to be shipped with sandwiches made from home grown nuts and raisins, of chablis quaffed with frogs' legs from tule marshes, never again to look upon the red burgundy with wicked anticipation while the canvassback from wild celery grown bottoms is carried.

King Cotton? He laughs at taxes, for he never felt their wounds.

## What a Question!

Of all the constitutional questions about which Tax Sun has been honored by appeals for an opinion as referee this is decidedly the most remarkable:

"To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: Will you kindly decide the following constitutional point?"

"A claims that if this war should last over 1920 President Wilson will not have to be nominated or elected, but will hold over his office automatically until this case is over."

"B claims that no matter in what condition this country may find itself in 1920, President Wilson, in order to be re-nominated and voted for in 1920, 'Who is correct?' F. BROOKLYN, August 5."

Does it not occur to "A" that if a state of war could automatically suspend the operation of the regular election system of this nation, the United States would cease to be a representative republic and become an autocracy, a government of military force? The Constitution would become a scrap of paper.

And we are fighting the war, as President Wilson has so well said, to make the world safe for democracy.

In the Constitution which these interesting friends of ours are debating there is absolutely no provision giving the President, as commander in chief of the army and navy, any powers in time of war not possessed by him in time of peace; save only as concerns his command of the militia of the several States when called into the actual service of the United States.

The so-called war powers of the President, enormously enhanced since the beginning of the present struggle, are derived entirely through legislative delegation. But even Congress itself is unable by any process to order him into the office without an election or to continue him in the office beyond the term for which he was chosen in November of 1916.

Few writers on constitutional government in the United States have been more liberal than President Wilson in their view of the extent to which the exigencies and new aspects of national life may properly modify, without constitutional amendment, the fabric of our institutions. "The Constitution," he has said, "cannot be regarded as a mere legal document, to be read as a will or a contract would be; it must, of the necessity of the case, be a vehicle of life."

But tolerant as his philosophy has shown itself to be in the matter of broad construction of Federal powers and executive functions and improved governmental mechanism for the doing of great things in a great crisis, we imagine there is no citizen of this republic who will regard with greater amazement and angrier impatience the proposition of Mr. "A" that the Lincoln need not have gone to the polls in 1864 for reelection, or that Wilson is not removable from office, even in the midst of the greatest of wars, if the people should vote at the next Presidential election for a change of administration.

## The Heat.

Each year we get it, and each year it seems "the worst yet." The present visitation is by no means as distressing as the week of burning weather which fell upon New York in 1917, about the first of August. This month's heat seems equal in its rage, perhaps for the reason that most of last month was, for July, of blessed mildness. But man, and particularly middle aged man, only suffers because of the contrast. Woman does better. Whether it is because of her light, loose clothing, or her greater store of genuine nervous energy, she accepts the weather with kinder words and more heroic grace than does the sterner but sometimes softer sex.

Regarding middle aged man as a negligible quantity, and woman as admirable and lucky, we have to applaud the soldiers about the streets. They have fairly heavy hats and warm looking shirts. Their puttees must be hotter than the seventh heaven of the infernal portal, yet the men take the heat like soldiers. Inwardly they may envy the sailors, with their ideal uniform of white duck, loose at the legs and open at the throat; but if they are envious, it is secretly so. They know that it is hot also in France, a fact which some of our grumbling civilians would do well to remember. "Hot" is relative. Truly, some of the warm weather growlers of New York would not have enjoyed the job that the British troops had

in the summer of 1916, building a railroad in Egypt. In "The Desert Campaign," a book recently published, W. T. Massey tells of the torture encountered by white men from all parts of the British Empire:

"For four days in June, 1916, the shade temperature officially recorded at G. H. Q. varied between 114 and 117 degrees, and for fifty-six consecutive days the maximum shade temperature was never less than 100 degrees. G. H. Q. was nicely placed, overlooking Lake Timnah, and there were trees and gardens about the building. Think what the temperature was out behind the dancing tent hazy in the desert, where, in a bell tent, a man would get sunstroke unless he wore a helmet."

If the reading of that paragraph does not soothe, look up some traveler friend who spent a week at Aden in August waiting for the French boat and who assures you that a pack of playing cards would stand only four dealings, being by that time reduced to the beginnings of pulp. Some heat sufferers, however, are not comforted with this vicarious homoeopathy. To them it is wiser to recall the week in New York around last New Year's, when they vowed that, come what might, never, never, would they complain of summer again. This is the perfect time, incidentally, for landlords to circulate lease blanks which contain no guarantee of seventy degrees.

After all, New York is fortunate. People who have the luck to live here have no St. Louis summers, no winters like those which prevail at Buffalo or Chicago, where the slush comes in December and stays until April. Our summers are comparatively splendid. If in doubt ask any one who has spent the dog days in the sticky, sticky national capital.

## The Lightning Reconvening of Politics in Certain Cases.

Politics, of course, is adjourned, but there appears to be a method by which it is reconvened at an instant's notice. For example, there is the case of the Hon. JAMES L. SLAYDEN of San Antonio, who has represented the Fourteenth Texas district in the House for twenty-two years. President Wilson sent the following telegram to a publisher in SLAYDEN'S home town:

"Your letter received. The Administration as between candidates equally loyal never takes part, but in the light of Mr. SLAYDEN'S record no one can claim he has given support to the Administration."

Representative SLAYDEN, the Texas despatches say, immediately withdrew from his race for renomination. His politics is adjourned.

The other side of the automatic reconvening of politics is observed, in shape less severe, in the case of Oliver Street's most distinguished son. The Washington correspondent of the Evening Post, Mr. DAVID LAWRENCE, saw politics open, smile, and shut:

"The White House let it be known that the selection of ALFRED E. SMITH for Governor was very pleasing indeed and there was not a moment's hesitation in expressing that sentiment. Throughout the Administration it has been felt for some time that SMITH was the logical man."

If the Hon. WILLIAM CHURCH OSBORN had been designated at Saratoga would the Hon. ALFRED E. SMITH still have been the logical man? There is no way of finding out. Politics is adjourned.

Yesterday was the last day to file the petitions of the several gentlemen who wish to be Governor of this State, and three months from yesterday will tell which one of the lot read the public mind correctly.

In the early days of quartz gold mining there ran through the mills countless tons of powdered quartz carrying from 10 to 20 per cent. of the original gold contents. This waste was deposited in creek bottoms or in dumps by the water which carried it from the mills, but later was worked over by more thrifty methods and yielded millions in the yellow metal. It has taken longer to recognize the value of a similar waste in coal mining, but now the hills of dust, the creek bottoms thick with black mud—nearly pure coal—are being thrifly rescued. It has taken a war to teach us thrift, but in time the money cost of the war will be returned to us by our practice of hundreds of war taught methods of saving.

The lost salient of the Germans looked like a goose and like a helmet, and very like a whaling.

Who can measure the compelling force of patriotism? At Sunday night's Battle concert, largely attended by Manhattanites to whom north of Fourteenth street is a foreign land, the leader asked that after the singing of the national anthem the audience offer one minute's silent prayer for the boys over there. One whose head did not bow promptly, seemingly held alert by the shock of some amazing surprise, soon acknowledged the force of patriotic emotion by saying, as he bowed his head, "I prayed last Easter, but if it is for the boys—here goes."

The Administration's fixing of the superior draft age at 45 indicates that it doesn't believe what Dr. OSKIN didn't say.

Men between 40 and 45, selected under revised age limit orders, will of course be sent to the places of the thousands of men of between 20 and 30 who have been commissioned without military training as lieutenants, captains and majors, and assigned to clerical jobs in Washington, where their uniforms outline the bronze of Miss Liberty atop the dome of the Capitol. Ah, how those youngsters will rejoice to be released from their typewriters and filing cases, to quit the lobbies of the Willard and the Shoreham and win glory and renown under Panhard at the front!

It was the enemy's intention to use the great numbers thus created (by Russia's collapse) to gain a decisive victory before the arrival of American

troops should give superiority to the Allies—Field Marshal Haig.

True as preaching. Just as true as that it was the intention to send great numbers to help gain a decisive victory before the arrival of Turkish, Bulgarian and Austrian troops should give superiority to the enemy. Or, in language with which few war veterans are now becoming familiar, Fritz struck out, but the Yanks batted home runs.

The Germans are using several kinds of gas, and each variety probably costs them more than \$125 a thousand.

## LOOKING AHEAD.

### More Labor and Intelligent Taxation Are What America Needs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: My intention in writing the article which you were kind enough to publish on July 20 in regard to the "Political Slaughter of American Industries" was to agitate the question of better methods of obtaining revenue at the present time and to excite condemnation or commendation of the views expressed therein. I find that the article is receiving almost universal commendation.

Now, so far as the labor of our country being affected adversely by the proposed revenue legislation, I think the situation would be benefited rather than injured. If capital can be relieved of its demoralization by the suggested stamp tax in lieu of all others, the property which would surely ensue would enable capital to pay larger wages than it is able to pay now.

The labor troubles of this country are due to the fact that because of its prosperity the producers command very high wages for the articles they produce, and because of this labor is obliged to demand higher and higher wages, "hoist by their own petard." Beginning with the pick, shovel and wheelbarrow, the laborers of this country are striving to become employers on a large scale, and just as they and their children become more educated they cease to use the utensils with which they have graduated from being employees to employers of labor, started their careers. It is plain, therefore, that they cannot avail themselves of their learning and experience by becoming contractors without additional labor. Hence a large supply of labor is needed by the constantly increasing number of employers. The exigencies of our situation are breaking down the foolish barriers to immigration which our statesmen have raised.

Some of my friends criticized me for suggesting that any portion of our protective laws should remain: first, because it is inequitable, and, secondly, because it is not for the good of the revenue obtained to pay the salaries of the staff of officers needed to collect it. They are right.

And while we are reforming matters, why not eliminate the Sherman anti-trust law, the enforcement of which produced the worldwide panic in 1907, and never did any one any good? Having stood in the way of the control of our industries, the Government found it necessary to override it.

Furthermore, why not repeal that out-law called the legal tender law, under which our country became a repudiator of its obligations for sixteen and a half years, and for that reason the Federal Reserve System will likely postpone such a calamity for many years to come.

The absurdity and glaring faults of our income tax, surtax and collateral legislation are more and more manifest every day. This is shown by the suggestions made in Congress for elaborating the system, and in editorial articles and communications in the press of the country. As a drag-net to collect needed revenue it is found to be full of holes, letting big fish and little fish escape in spite of that army of spies put upon everybody. Such a method can do no good except to the honesty of the American people. It is offensive in every way, universally detested and tending to another patriotic impulse of our people, who, in spite of it, are furnishing such immense sums for Liberty loans, the Red Cross and other charities, both at home and abroad.

Upon further consultation with some friends I find that charging ourselves 10 per cent. of this year's cost of the war, leaving 90 per cent. for future generations to pay in the form of long term bonds, is entirely too much. A tax of 1 per cent. on all real estate transfers, plus a trifling stamp tax on every sale of \$10 or over on personal property, would result in an overflowing treasury at the outset, even if only 2 per cent. instead of 10 was our first year's contribution toward the expenses of the war.

Only a deaf and blind person will dispute the fact that intelligent property will come upon us when peace is declared, which will increase as time goes on, so that the suggested taxes will pour into an overflowing treasury. This should be used in retiring the bonds, say at 105, at the pleasure of the Government. Fortified as these bonds would be with abundant taxation easily borne and collected, they would be the most sought after securities in the world, particularly if the bonds were not subject to the income tax. And they would be rapidly retired.

In my former communication I said if these sound financial measures were passed our statements would be made to return to their homes. In fact I feel sure that if they enact these needed reforms in our legislation and taxation their constituents would feel so rejoiced that they would